Avery Shaw

New Uniform Policy

As many already know, the school is implementing a new school uniform effective for the 2011-2012 school year. The school has changed the uniform brand from Ad logos to Lands’ End.

Starting in the fall of 2011, freshmen and sophomores will be required to purchase polo shirts, shorts, and pants from the company. Juniors and seniors will be required to purchase Lands’ End shorts or pants but will be allowed to continue to wear Ad logos polo shirts and button downs. Lands’ End also offers sweaters and cardigans for students to wear.

Within a few hours of this announcement, student tumult began. Angry, confused Facebook statuses littered students’ newsfeed, and text messages flew back and forth among friends discussing the new change.

Sophomore Julia Shaw said, “I can’t believe that the school is doing this to us! There is nothing wrong with the current uniform policy. At least now we can get use of our uniform pants outside of school. Now I’m going to have to wear unflattering, uncomfortable pants that I’ll never be able to wear anywhere else but school.”

The administration understands this is a dramatic change and it will take some getting used to, but feels the switch is necessary.

Principal Healy said, “The main reason for switching the uniform is to have more continuity and “uniformity” throughout the whole school. I think it’s been a struggle for parents to find docker-style pants, and as hard as people tried, it just wasn’t working.”

Mr. Healy said, “Land’s End offers a high-quality product and something that everybody can buy and look good in.”

It will still be hard to enforce these rules on students, especially rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are used to the old uniform policy.

Sydney Oakley said, “Why doesn’t the school allow some sort of grandfather clause?”

“The rules should stay the same for students who have been at Catholic before the new uniform code was put in place. It’s only fair for students who already have uniform clothes that work for the old code and don’t want them to go to waste. It just seems like the most economic way to handle the situation,” said Oakley.

When asked if grandfathering in students who have been at the school before the uniform change was possible, Mr. Healy said, “I thought about that, but then we’re waiting three years for something to take effect that needs to take effect now. I think we’ve been very tolerant with the change in styles over the years but now we have to bring it back to some normalcy.”

To many students the new uniform is unflattering and unappealing. The little variety compared to the current uniform selection will make it difficult for students to find clothes they are completely satisfied with.

Luckily, Sears offers alterations for students who find the pants of shorts disproportionate or ill-fitting. The pants also come un-hemmed so they can be lengthened or shortened to meet students’ needs.

One big concern with the new uniforms is cost. Not only are hundreds of dollars invested in current school uniforms being lost, but parents will have to spend hundreds of more dollars buying shirts and pants from the new uniform supplier.

There are pros and cons concerning the new uniforms for next year, but one thing is for certain: this will take some getting used to.